

Nebraska Children's Commission – Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee

Sixth Meeting

March 12, 2013

1:00PM-5:00PM

Lincoln City Library – Eiseley Branch (Room 2)

1530 Superior Street, Lincoln, NE

Call to Order

Marty Klein called the meeting to order at 1:15pm and noted that the Open Meetings Act information was posted in the room as required by state law.

Roll Call

Subcommittee Members present: Martin Klein, Judge Larry Gendler, Kim Hawekotte, Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Jana Peterson, Corey Steel, and Monica Miles Steffens.

Acting as resources to the committee: Doug Koebernick, Liz Neeley, Dan Scarborough, and Amy Williams.

Subcommittee Member(s) absent: Ellen Brokofsky, Kim Culp, Rachel Daugherty, Sarah Forrest, Pastor Tony Sanders, and Dalene Walker.

Resource members absent: Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Stacey Conroy, Tony Green, Jerall Moreland, and Hank Robinson.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Monica Miles Steffens to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Jana Peterson. Voting yes: Martin Klein, Judge Larry Gendler, Kim Hawekotte, Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Jana Peterson, Corey Steel, and Monica Miles Steffens. Voting no: none. Ellen Brokofsky, Kim Culp, Rachel Daugherty, Sarah Forrest, Nick Juliano, Pastor Tony Sanders, and Dalene Walker were absent. Motion carried.

Approval of February 12, 2013, Minutes

A motion was made by Kim Hawekotte to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2013, meeting, seconded by Anne Hobbs. Voting yes: Martin Klein, Judge Larry Gendler, Kim Hawekotte, Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Jana Peterson, Corey Steel, and Monica Miles Steffens. Voting no: none. Ellen Brokofsky, Kim Culp, Rachel Daugherty, Sarah Forrest, Nick Juliano, Pastor Tony Sanders, and Dalene Walker were absent. Motion carried.

YRTC Update

Jana Peterson and Dan Scarbrough provided information on the Kearney and Geneva YRTCs. Dan indicated that YRTC Geneva had an incident recently that included 6 kids. He indicated that there had been letters written regarding LB561 and that some staff had gone to testify at the hearing.

Jana reported that the Kearney YRTC staff and advisory board had been discussing LB561. They also had staff go to testify at the hearing. The community has been very supportive of the YRTC remaining.

Legislative Update

Doug Koebernick from Senator Lathrop's office gave an update on pending legislation. He noted that proposed legislation on the juvenile justice system was discussed by a small group. The following is a possible outline for the amended LB561 with the responsible party in italics from the small group meeting:

FRONT-END SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

- 1) Increase County Juvenile Services Aid to \$10 million to front-load the system in order that more kids are able to receive care in their communities. (*Katie*)
 - a. Funds will be continue to be placed in the Crime Commission – with the application, criteria and award system spelled out in statute.
- 2) Include LB 471 (Coash) to provide for meaningful and timely evaluations. (*Stacey*)
- 3) Expand the Probation Pilot Program to additional counties/service areas, including Lancaster county. (*Stacey, Corey*)
- 4) Identify ways to capture money savings from the Probation Pilot Program and return those funds to Juvenile Services, possibly through County Juvenile Services Aid funds. (*Doug*)
- 5) Create the position of Diversion Coordinator within the Crime Commission to enhance the diversion services provided across the state. (*Katie*)
 - a. The Diversion Coordinator will work with the Crime Commission/Juvenile Justice Coalition to determine appropriate uses for County Juvenile Services Aid.

BACK-END SYSTEM REVISIONS

- 6) Limit in the statutes who is able to be sent to YRTC in order to reduce YRTC populations. (*Stacey and Katie*)

7) Create a 6 month Families in Transition Program through OJS Juvenile Parole to ease kids back to their communities after YRTC. (*Stacey*)

8) Specify Children's Commission OJS Sub-Committee tasks for year-end reporting to the Judiciary Committee. (*Kim*)

- a. YRTC 3-5 year plan for transitioning to treatment centered facility.
- b. Identify needs and possible resources for additional mental health and behavioral health treatment facilities in Nebraska.

9) Research use of Hastings facility to determine cost savings. (*Doug*)

The Juvenile Services committee discussed these nine points as a part of the legislative update. It was noted that the closing of the YRTCs was being looked at differently for the updated version of LB561 and closing them might be off the table. The group decided to take these nine points into consideration when looking at the continuum of service document in the two separate workgroups.

Amy Williams provided information on pending legislation that Senator McGill has been working on including children aging out of foster care.

Review of Current Juvenile Justice Process

The OJS committee continued their review of the juvenile justice system taking the nine points from the legislative update into consideration. The committee split into two workgroups and reviewed *The Juvenile Justice Process* flowchart and discussed elements of the process that would need to be considered in future discussions. The group is continuing to work toward having recommendations for the Nebraska Children's Commission by July 1, 2013.

New Business

Marty Klein noted that he had received Rachel Daugherty's resignation from the group. Marty stated that Rachel was unable to make the meetings due to the demands of her job. Marty made a motion to accept Rachel's resignation and begin looking for a replacement for her spot. The motion was seconded by Ron Johns. Voting yes: Martin Klein, Judge Larry Gendler, Kim Hawekotte, Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Jana Peterson, and Corey Steel. Voting no: none. Ellen Brokofsky, Kim Culp, Rachel Daugherty, Sarah Forrest, Pastor Tony Sanders, Monica Miles Steffens, and Dalene Walker were absent. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2013 from 1:30PM to 5:00PM. Doug Koebernick will be checking on a meeting room at the Capitol. The details of the meeting will be sent to committee members as soon as possible.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Judge Larry Gendler to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Nick Juliano. The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.

DRAFT